

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION**

ROBERT NELSON HOWELL, JR.,

Petitioner,

v.

WARDEN STE. GENEVIEVE DETENTION  
CENTER,

Respondent.

No. 1:25-cv-00111-AGF

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

This matter is before the Court upon review of self-represented Petitioner Robert Nelson Howell, Jr.'s "Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241." ECF No. 1. This filing is defective as a petition initiating suit because it was not signed and not drafted on a Court form. E.D. Mo. L. R. 2.01(A)(1) & 2.06(A). In addition, Petitioner has neither paid the filing fee nor filed a motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. E.D. Mo. L. R. 2.01(B)(1).

Petitioner's typed signature on the petition is not enough. Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(a), every written pleading or motion must be signed "by a party personally if the party is unrepresented" and the Court must strike an unsigned paper "unless the omission is promptly corrected after being called to the . . . party's attention." Further, Local Rule 2.11 recognizes a "person's name on a signature block" as a signature only if that person made "[a]n authorized filing . . . through [that] person's electronic filing account." *Accord* Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(d)(3)(C). The petition in this case was not electronically filed but was mailed to the Court. *See* ECF No. 1 at 4.

Furthermore, the petition was not drafted on a Court-provided form and does not substantially follow the form prescribed by the Court. E.D. Mo. L. R. 2.06(A); Rule 2(d) of the

Rules Governing § 2254 Cases (“The petition must substantially follow either the form appended to these rules or a form prescribed by a local district-court rule.”).

As such, Petitioner has **thirty (30) days** from the date of this Order to file a signed, amended petition on the Court-provided form. In that same time period, Petitioner must either file a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the Court filing fee.

Accordingly,


**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court shall mail to Petitioner blank copies of the Court’s “Petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus Under 28 U.S.C. § 2241” form and “Motion to Proceed *in Forma Pauperis* and Affidavit in Support – Habeas Cases” form.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, within **thirty (30) days** of the date of this Order, Petitioner shall file a signed, amended petition on the Court-provided form. Petitioner is advised that his amended petition will take the place of his original petition and will be the only pleading that this Court will review.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, within **thirty (30) days** of the date of this Order, Petitioner shall either pay the \$5.00 filing fee or submit a motion to proceed *in forma pauperis* on the Court-provided form.

**IT IS FINALLY ORDERED** that if Petitioner fails to comply with this Order, the Court will dismiss this action without prejudice.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2025.

  
AUDREY G. FLEISSIG  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE